

Remarks

This Amendment is being filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination ("RCE"). Reconsideration and allowance of this application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 38, and 43 have been amended. Claims 1-13 and 16-43 remain pending in the application. Claims 1, 38, and 43 are independent. The sole rejection is respectfully submitted to be obviated in view of the amendments and remarks presented herein. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

Claim 1 has been amended to even more particularly define the application head feature of the bottoming device. Instant claim 1 defines an embodiment of the bottoming device having an application head with "a glue circulation channel that provides for circulation of the glue within the application head, the glue circulation channel including (i) a first transverse channel and a second transverse channel each extending along the length of the application head in the (y) direction, and (ii) a connection channel extending across the application head in the (x) direction, the connection channel connecting an end of the first transverse channel to an adjacent end of the second transverse channel, the glue circulation channel providing for glue flow through the first transverse channel, across the connection channel, and through the second transverse channel to drain from the application head."

Independent claims 38 and 43 have been amended in a manner parallel to that of claim 1. Support for the instant recitations is found, e.g., in the disclosure at specification page 6, last paragraph, through page 7, first paragraph, and in drawing Figures 5a), 5b), and 5c). Applicants disclose that "[b]oth the glue channels 52 and 53 can be advantageously connected to the front end of the head opposite to the glue ducts. The connection takes place by means of another glue channel that runs in the application head 50 in x direction. In this way the glue can flow e.g., via the glue channel 52 provided for this purpose with a feed line, and flow through the connection channel and through the glue channel 53 in order to drain finally through a glue discharge. In this manner a glue circulation through such an application head is possible."

Entry of each of the amendments is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) - Boger and Pedigrew

Claims 1-13 and 16-43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,687,137 to Boger et al. (hereinafter "Boger") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,016,812 to Pedigrew. The Office Action again acknowledges that Boger fails to disclose "two rows of valve row" (Office Action page 3).

The rejection of claims 1-13 and 16-43 under § 103(a) based on Boger and Pedigrew is respectfully deemed to be obviated. For at least the following reasons, the combined disclosures of Boger and Pedigrew would not have rendered obvious Applicants' presently claimed invention.

As indicated above, instant claim 1 defines an embodiment of the bottoming device having an application head with "a glue circulation channel that provides for circulation of the glue within the application head, the glue circulation channel including (i) a first transverse channel and a second transverse channel each extending along the length of the application head in the (y) direction, and (ii) a connection channel extending across the application head in the (x) direction, the connection channel connecting an end of the first transverse channel to an adjacent end of the second transverse channel, the glue circulation channel providing for glue flow through the first transverse channel, across the connection channel, and through the second transverse channel to drain from the application head."

By virtue of the claimed glue circulation channel feature, the glue flows continuously and therefore does not dry or change its characteristics in any way. The glue circulates not depending on whether the valve is open or not, because the glue circulates only in the main portion of the application head, i.e., the first transverse channel, the connection channel, and the

second transverse channel. This means that the glue can easily be circulated regardless of whether the valve is open or closed.

The asserted combination of Boger and Pedigrew would not have rendered obvious the presently claimed invention. The combined disclosures of Boger and Pedigrew do not teach all of Applicants' claim features.

In responding to arguments made in Applicants' Amendment filed March 16, 2009, the Office Action states that "Boger et al. disclose a channel (18, fig. 2) for circulation of the glue to the nozzle 20" (Office Action page 6). But that is not Applicants' presently claimed invention. Boger simply provides for delivery of the glue to nozzle 20 through "an adhesive manifold 18" (Boger column 6, line 35). More specifically, Boger teaches in pertinent part that "[a]fter passing through filter 14, the adhesive flows from passageway 16 into an adhesive manifold 18, through a valving arrangement described in detail below, and then into nozzle 20" (column 6, lines 34-37).

However, according to Applicants' presently claimed invention, the application head includes, *inter alia*, the first transverse channel, the connection channel, and the second transverse channel. Therefore, in addition to providing for delivery of glue to the nozzle as Boger's device does, Applicants' claimed device also provides for circulation of the glue throughout the application head. And, by virtue of Applicants' claimed configuration, the glue circulates regardless of whether the valve

is open or closed, because the glue circulates only in the main portion of the application head, i.e., the first transverse channel, the connection channel, and the second transverse channel. Boger, therefore, does not meet each feature of Applicants' presently claimed invention.

Furthermore, regardless of what Pedigrew may disclose with regard to the number of valve rows, the disclosure of Pedigrew does not rectify any of the above-described structural deficiencies of Boger.

Finally, there is simply no teaching in either Boger or Pedigrew that would have led one to select the references and combine them in a way that would produce the invention defined by any of Applicants' pending claims.

Therefore, the combined disclosures of Boger and Pedigrew would not have rendered obvious the invention defined by claim 1. Claims 2-13 and 16-37 are allowable because they depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1, and for the subject matter recited therein. Independent claims 38 and 43 and their respective dependent claims are similarly allowable.

In view of the foregoing, this application is now in condition for allowance. If the examiner believes that an

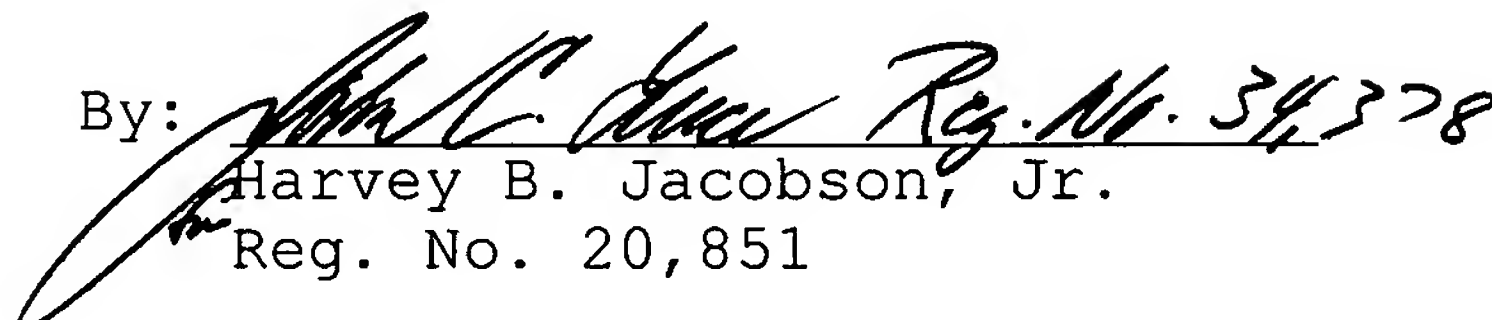
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interview might expedite prosecution, the examiner is invited to
contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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